

ONE OF MY Best Shots



I took this photo at the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) after helping a newly hatched green sea turtle make its way into the surf in the summer of 2015. PMRF's wildlife team monitored sea turtle nesting activity on the base throughout the 2015 sea turtle nesting season. Six green sea turtle nests were documented and protected from human disturbance. All six nests hatched successfully producing a total of 468 new baby turtles (a record high for one season at PMRF). Nearly all of the hatchlings made their way from nest to the ocean in the dark of night without incident.

In a few cases, biologists discovered baby turtles such as the one in this photo that had become trapped under the sand and were unable to exit on their own. In these cases, the young turtles were freed and placed near the ocean. The turtle in the photo crawled into the surf and disappeared under the waves a few minutes after this photo was taken. I used a Fujifilm XP waterproof digital camera, at a focal length of 16.3 mm and ISO 100 at f/8.

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